

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The semi-annual Conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union was held in the Tabernacle, at 7:30 p. m., October 6th, 1891. The general attendance was good, and most of the members of the board were present.

Meeting was called to order by Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard.

The choir and congregation joined in singing:

Come, come ye Saints.

Prayer was offered by President Orson Smith, of Cache Stake.

Singing:

Let Zion in her beauty rise,
Her light begins to shine, etc.

Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard spoke in substance as follows: I have been requested to give a synopsis in brief of the labors of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board during the last six months.

Our leaflets having run out, we have published a reprint of the shortage needed, which can be had at the *Juvenile Instructor* office.

To increase the attendance of the children at the Sunday school we have issued what is called a "visiting book," wherein the teacher who goes round his beat or district every Sabbath morning to insure the attendance of every pupil enters the name of each Sunday school pupil in his beat, and it is his duty to see that they attend each Sunday. If he or she should be absent it is marked in this book, and the next Sunday the teacher calls upon the absentee and finds out the cause, etc. We have found this plan an excellent one, and it enables the superintendent and bishop to know exactly the number and ages of children in his ward.

We had our own artists procure premium oil paintings of the important events in the early life of Nephi, etc., which formed the basis of the Book of Mormon charts, which we expect will be ready for sale about February, 1892. We have ordered 5,000 sets of twelve pictures each, and they will be a great aid in teaching the children of Zion the truth and beauty of the Book of Mormon. It was for this purpose—that of aiding us in raising means—that you were called upon to donate, at least five cents from each scholar, teacher and superintendent. To this there has been a very generous response.

In the past six months the members of the board have visited nearly two-thirds of all the Stakes of Zion. Their visits have been interesting and profitable; but it was at times when reviews or jubilees were held and we could not get at the true labor of the students. A review should be one, and not recitations, songs, etc., foreign to Sunday school work. It should consist of an epitome of the exercises that have been gone over by the students. And in all these reviews, all the pupils as much as possible should be brought in to use, that it may be a benefit to all.

It would be well at reviews to have the Articles of Faith responded to by all the school, the Words of Wisdom repeated in the same way, and thus early impress upon the young the cardinal principles of the Gospel.

Where it can be done, schools should be graded into the primary, intermediate and theological classes. Where

this has been done, we find the progress very marked indeed.

The importance of the Sunday school labor demands that we try and employ the best talent, means, and exert the most influence among the young. There are nearly 7000 officers and teachers now engaged in this cause; there are over 50,000 children among us between the ages of six and eighteen years. What a host for the future of Zion!

Reports should be furnished completely by February of each year. Blanks will be sent you for this purpose soon, and all should see to it that they are properly filled out and returned by the date named.

In some places the Stake superintendents find themselves cramped for means to enable them to travel without it being a hardship upon them. I would suggest that a fund be established in each Stake for traveling expenses, stationery, etc. To raise this means get up good concerts and charge a small admission fee.

Superintendent Richard Ballantyne of the Weber Stake made some interesting remarks on how he had increased the attendance of the children at school by the use of the visiting books. He rejoiced to see the progress in the Weber Stake in the last twenty-eight years, during which time he had been Stake superintendent.

The Twenty-first ward choir, under the management of Elder Thomas McIntyre, rendered in style, "Sabbath Welcome."

General Superintendent George Q. Cannon then addressed the audience.

Elder George Reynolds presented the general officers of the Union as follows:

George Q. Cannon, General Superintendent; George Goddard, First Assistant Superintendent; John Morgan, Second Assistant Superintendent, and the above with George Reynolds, Abraham H. Cannon, J. W. Summerhays, Thomas C. Griggs, Levi W. Richards, Francis M. Lyman and Heber J. Grant constituting the general board; George Reynolds as general Treasurer and John M. Whitaker as general Secretary of the Union. The vote was unanimous.

Apostle F. M. Lyman then followed, making some timely and good suggestions.

List, comrades in arms,

was beautifully rendered by the male choir from the Twenty-first Ward.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Reynolds.

Conference adjourned for six months.

JOHN M. WHITAKER, Clerk.

THE INDUSTRIAL HOME.

Mrs. J. H. Ferry, President of the Woman's Industrial Christian Home Association, presented her annual report to the officers of the institution on Tuesday evening. It was unanimously adopted. The old officers were elected for the ensuing year. The report is as follows:

To the Members of the Woman's Industrial Christian Home Association of Utah:

Since our last annual meeting, October 7th, which stood adjourned to November 5th, the Utah Commission, its present board of management and control, on November 11th turned over to our Association this building.

This was in accordance with an act of Congress approved the 19th of October, 1888, a part of which is as follows: "When said building shall have been completed and finished, it shall be placed in the custody of the Industrial Christian Home Association of Utah Territory, to be used and occupied by it for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of polygamy and of furnishing an industrial home and providing employment and means of self-support for the dependent women who renounce polygamy, and the children of such women of tender age in said Territory."

At that date three women and six children, nine inmates, were receiving the benefits of the Home.

During the current year, from the report of the matron, Mrs. A. L. Ryors, the inmates in the Home in December were eleven, four women and seven children.

	Number.	Women.	Children.
December.....	11	4	7
February.....	11	4	7
March.....	11	4	7
April.....	21	6	15
May.....	21	6	15
June.....	21	6	15
July.....	22	7	15
August.....	24	8	16
September.....	26	8	1

At present writing there are twenty in the Home, eight women and twelve children. In addition to these there are applications for five, one woman, her niece and three children, who come under the law. Eleven children are attending school. Whole number of applicants during the mouths above named, fifty-seven. In the history of the association I find that 111 persons, women and children, have received the aid of the institution. Beside these there has been an aggregate of 254 applicants not deemed admissible.

Upon such numerous applicants as a basis, Congress was asked to enlarge the scope of the law. This was thoughtfully and carefully considered by Congress and resulted in the following amendments to the original act: these amendments taking effect when the Utah Commission was designated a Board of Control.

They are: First, first or legal wives. Second, women and girls with polygamous surroundings in danger of being coerced into polygamy. Third, girls of polygamous parentage anxious to escape from polygamous surroundings. Fourth, women and girls who have been proselyted elsewhere, and removed into the Territory in ignorance of the existence thereof of polygamy.

I am clear in my conviction that the Utah Commission as the board of management and control, is disposed, in a final decision, to make as generous a construction of this law as its purpose will permit.

Now the burden of examination for admission must first be through the machinery of this association, and has devolved upon your executive committee or a sub-committee appointed by them. Although there has been no exception taken in any case, to those admitted, yet the action of this committee being properly subject to revision and reversal, may they not be inclined to apply the most strict construction of the law?

Would it not be well to classify applications and present for consultation to the board of control?

I respectfully call the attention of the association to the 3rd and 4th